

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

In server environments where sensitive information is used, it is important to protect that information. Policy decisions concerning the distribution of such information must be enforced. Sensitive information is often protected by passwords known to one or more individuals. In
5 these environments, it is impractical to have an operator or other individual authorize every use of sensitive information. This invention describes the pre-authorization of application programs to receive sensitive information of an enterprise, allowing the server to operate without human intervention while preserving and enforcing the security policy of the enterprise.